

Appl. No. 09/822,684  
Amdt. Dated 1/30/2006  
Reply to Final Office Action of 01/09/2006

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-8, 13-20, and 25-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-12, 21-24, and 31-34 have been withdrawn.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 9, 2006. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8, 13-17, 20, 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In addition, the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter for claims 6-7, 18-19, and 30 if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 3, 6, 8, 15, 18, 20, 27, and 30, and canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 25, 26, 28, and 29. Applicants note that the amendments are not intended to distinguish from the cited prior art references. Applicants preserve the right to continue prosecution of the canceled claims in the future.

Reconsideration in light of the remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 6-7, 18-19, and 30 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 6, 18, and 30 to make them becoming independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the application is advanced to allowance.

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**Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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1/30/2006

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